

TOURS FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

The Parthenon



**Actors from Nashville Children's
Theater reenact a Winslow Homer
painting *Waiting for Dad* for students
from the Tennessee School for the
Blind**

Since 1998, the Nashville Parthenon has offered special tours for the Blind and Visually Impaired visitor.

The Parthenon offers downloadable large print brochures on our web site www.parthenon.org on the Educational Resources page in addition to on-site Braille brochures (which must be returned to the front desk following your visit).

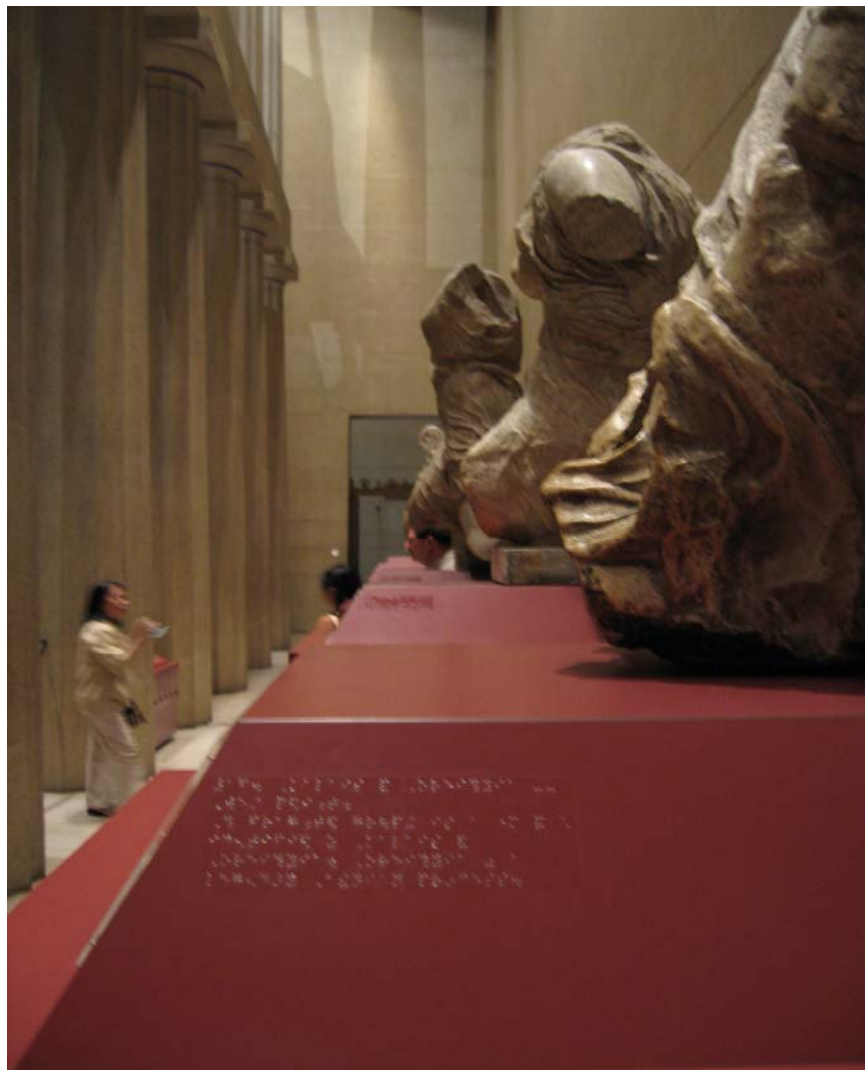
The Athena Level

Visitors tactically explore miniature models of the Parthenon exterior and the Athena statue before going upstairs to visit the temple area. The Parthenon has both stairways and an elevator for your convenience in moving to the upper level.



Visitors will hear a detailed description of the Athena statue from docents trained to work with the Blind and Visually Impaired. Helium balloons on strings assist blind visitors in reaching to the heights of the 42-foot statue and the 45-foot ceiling.

Visitors are invited to explore the Elgin Marble casts (the lower portion can be reached) and Braille text panels are available for reading on the side of each marble cast pedestal.



Visitors will tactically explore the Doric and Ionic columns in the Naos (Athena room) and the Treasury (located directly behind the Naos). Other tactile objects for exploration include a full-scale griffin, such as those located on the exterior corners of the roofline, and examples of the Ionic frieze, as well as the 24-foot, 7.5-ton bronze doors.

Guests return to the lower level of the Parthenon for a short tour of a *staff only* area where they tactically explore portions of the 1897 walls, pieces from the Parthenon's exterior design elements, and molds used to create the exterior pediments.

The Galleries

Blind and visually impaired guests visit the ground floor art galleries where they explore the James Cowan Collection of American art including works by Winslow Homer, Albert Bierstadt, Sanford Gifford, and Fredric Church, assisted by Braille text. In addition, the Parthenon staff provides tactile exploration of several pieces including *The New Dress* by Edwin Blashfield. Samples of elaborate textures used in this simple painting allow guests to “see through touch”.

**TO SCHEDULE A TOUR FOR
THE BLIND OR VISUALLY
IMPAIRED CONTACT:**

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